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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/19/01 10:07am
Subject: Microsoft Case - James F. Olszewski II

I am writing to this email address as I was informed that the DOJ was seeking opinions on the case.

I have been a Computer Technician and Network Administrator for several years. I have worked with Microsoft products for many years, as well as numerous other-vendor products. I have also kept a close eye on this case, as I have witnessed Microsoft's anti-competitive and predatory behavior over several years time.

My opinion of the settlement is that it is incomplete. It does not even come close to making Microsoft 'atone' for the businesses or careers it has destroyed nor for the misperceptions it has inflicted upon the public with its media practices. Many of its customers have absolutely no idea what kind of damage this company has done and this is by design. Also, those companies that decide to stand up against Microsoft's unreasonable requirements for licensing are not protected from retaliation.

Microsoft has also, in my opinion, treated the Federal Government with disdain and has used the same 'sheer weight of power' tactics it uses with any company that does not fit in with its business model. Besides being legally questionable, this insults all US citizens and hints at future behavioral problems when that 'weight' grows even larger. Microsoft is NOT above the United States and MAY NOT choose when and where to obey the law.

In my opinion, fees and damages should be levied in proportion to the net worth of the company and the business it has stolen. It should be immediately accountable for its actions when dealing with competitors and customers. It should be expected to meet product quality standards, without being allowed to solely create those standards.

In short, it should be treated as any other company and one that has been tried and convicted of aggressive and anti-competitive practices.

In any other case, an individual or company that has repeatedly thumbed its nose at authority and has consistently worked loopholes to take advantage of the 'letter of the law' as opposed to the 'spirit of the law' would have been punished and made an example of.

Why should Microsoft be any different?

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